

REMARKS

- Claims 1-71 were pending in the present application
- Claims 1-36, 38-40, 46-54 and 59-71 stand rejected
- Claims 37, 45 and 55-58 are allowable
- Claims 41-44 are objected to

Upon entry of this response, which is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth below:

- Claims 1-71 will be pending
- Claims 1, 21, 30-31, 37-38, 45-46, 48, 53-55, 59 and 70 will be the only independent claims

Summary of Telephone Interview

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the helpful telephone conversation held on February 5, 2002 with Applicants' representative. The Examiner and Applicants' representative discussed the present application in light of the Storch, Gassies and Modler references.

Applicants stated that the Storch, Gassies and Modler references, alone or in combination, do not teach all of the features of any of pending Claims 1-71. Some of the claims and features were discussed during the telephone conversation. Applicants' representative stated, for example, that the Storch, Gassies and Modler references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest various recited features of the claims, including, but not limited to, features generally directed to:

in response to detection of the event, associating a second non-zero value with the gaming token, the second non-zero value being different from the first non-zero value, as recited in each of independent Claims 1 and 21;

determining on the basis of the read token identifier whether a prize has been won, as recited in independent Claim 48; or

a virtual token, as recited in each of independent Claims 59 and 70.

Applicants' representative also stated that there is no motivation to combine the Storch, Gassies and Modler references in the manner proposed by the Examiner.

The Examiner indicated that the present rejections of Claims 1-71 would be withdrawn, and that a subsequent Office Action would be non-final. The Examiner also indicated that a new search would be performed.

Applicants are grateful for the opportunity to discuss the present application with the Examiner.

Section 103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-15, 18-30, 46-54 and 59-71 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,814,589 issued to Storch ("Storch") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,895,321 issued to Gassies, et al. ("Gassies"). Claims 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Storch in view of Gassies and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,361,885 issued to Modler ("Modler"). Claims 31-36 and 38-40 stand rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Modler in view of Gassies. Applicants respectfully traverse all of the Examiner's Section 103(a) rejections.

However, the Examiner indicated during the telephone conversation that the Section 103(a) rejections would be withdrawn. Applicants are grateful that the Examiner indicated the withdrawal of the rejections. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-71 are in condition for allowance.

Objection to Claims 41-44

As the Examiner has indicated that the Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 38-39 will be withdrawn, the Examiner's objection to Claims 41-44 is moot.

Conclusion

It is submitted that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees that may be required for this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. Furthermore, should an extension of time be required, please grant any extension of time which may be required to make this Amendment timely, and please charge any fee for such an extension to Deposit Account No. 50-0271.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact Michael Downs at telephone number (203) 461-7292 or via electronic mail at mdowns@walkerdigital.com.

February 7, 2002
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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